

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all previous listings, and versions, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A method of performing treating cardiac tissue ablation comprising:

(a) providing an ablation device a catheter having an ultrasonic transducer including a balloon including a first reflective interface and a second reflective interface, the second reflective interface spaced apart from and directed towards the first reflective interface so as to form a window between the first and second reflective surfaces;

inserting the catheter in the left atrium of the heart of a mammalian subject and inflating the balloon such that the device is in an operative configuration having the window aligned with a preselected region of cardiac tissue opposite proximal and distal directions, with a distal wall of the balloon facing substantially in the distal direction toward a region of the wall of the atrium to be ablated, such region being disposed outside of the ostium of a pulmonary vein; and

(b) while the ablation device is in said operative configuration, injecting a contrast medium into the subject on the distal side of said ablation device and obtaining one or more images depicting the contrast medium in at least a portion of the atrium so as to visualize the position of the catheter ablation device relative to the atrium; and

(c) ablating actuating the ultrasonic transducer to emit ultrasonic energy, the first and second reflective surfaces directing the ultrasonic energy through the window and into the preselected region of the cardiac tissue wall of the atrium using the ablation device without ablating within the pulmonary vein or the ostium, wherein the method is performed without forcibly engaging a structure with the wall of the pulmonary vein or the ostium.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said contrast medium is an x-ray contrast medium and said step of obtaining said images is performed by x-ray imaging.

10. (Currently amended) A method as claim 7 wherein said steps of injecting contrast medium and obtaining images are performed so that said images show contrast medium in the atrium ~~and in at least one pulmonary vein.~~

11-82. (Canceled)

83. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the step of injecting contrast medium into the subject includes injecting the medium so that the medium advances forwardly ~~into at least one pulmonary vein and the medium is carried by blood flow back toward the ostium of the vein and into said atrium around said ablation device.~~

84. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 83 further comprising the step of maintaining the ablation device at least partially abutting the heart a cardiac wall in the vicinity of a pulmonary vein ostium during the step of injecting the contrast medium.

85. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 84 wherein the step of acquiring images includes acquiring one or more images while the catheter ablation device abuts the cardiac heart-wall.

86. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 84 further comprising the step of retracting the catheter ablation device away from the cardiac heart-wall after injecting the contrast medium.

87. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 86 wherein the step of obtaining images includes obtaining one or more images after retracting the catheter ablation device.

88. (Canceled)

89. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the step of providing the catheter deviee in an operative condition includes inflating at least one balloon within the atrium of the heart and the step of introducing contrast medium is performed so that the contrast medium is disposed outside of the at least one balloon.

90. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 89 wherein the catheter deviee in its operative condition has a central axis extending in the proximal and distal directions, and the step of introducing the contrast medium includes introducing the contrast medium through a port in a wall of the balloon adjacent the central axis of the deviee.

91. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 89 wherein the catheter deviee in its operative condition has a central axis extending in the proximal and distal directions, and the step of introducing the contrast medium includes introducing the contrast medium through an outlet port of a tubular stylet communicating with the atrium of the heart adjacent the central axis of the deviee.

92. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the step of injecting contrast medium is performed so that the contrast medium is injected only on the distal side of the catheter deviee.

93. (New) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein providing a catheter comprises providing a catheter in which the first and second reflective surfaces converge towards one another.